

THINGS HEARD AND SEEN

and seems to be making some most effective speeches for the republican party."

When a man thinks he wants to live without working and is willing to do dishonest acts he seldom finds any difficulty in devising schemes which will catch some body. Detectives have so many experiences with such people that they are always expecting to hear of supposed impossibilities and are never surprised at anything. Capt. James A. McDevitt, who was connected with the local detective corps a number of years, and who is one of the best-known detectives in the country, related an interesting story to a party of friends at police headquarters one day this week. The story was of an attempt made to rob the wife of a baker in South Washington by selling her fake silverware.

"The baker's wife was on duty in the store connected with the bakery," he said, "when a stranger, apparently a German, entered and wanted to sell her a quantity of silverware for \$200. He told her that his wife and children were detained at the custom house with their effects, and that it was necessary for him to take \$200 in order to get them released. He was relating the story of his troubles with tears in his eyes and in walked a tall, elegantly dressed man."

"Does Mrs. Williams live on this block?" he asked the woman behind the counter, and the latter promptly informed him that she knew of no such person. The elegantly dressed man was surprised, he said, for he had been told that the baker's woman could give him the information about her. "He was about to go," said Capt. McDevitt, "when he turned and admired the outlay of silverware. He then carried out his part of the game by inquiring what the man was going to do with the silverware. He pretended he was very much surprised when told \$200 was what was wanted for the outlay, and volunteered the information that it was worth \$1,000. He said he would make the purchase if the baker's wife should get the silver. Williams, and impressed upon the baker's wife that he was extremely anxious to get the silver at so small a price."

When he had gone from the store the man who had the silver became confidential and was more anxious than ever to get the silver. The baker's wife told him the game was a good one and well worked, concluded the detective, but fortunately the baker had locked his safe before going on his way, and his wife could not get the money."

Two well-known, handsome and popular officers of the National Guard of the District of Columbia who witnessed, in the capacity of observers, the military maneuvers that occurred recently in the vicinity of Manassas, Va., returned to this city, in the language of their comrades, "speechless" by the Gainesville girls.

The camp of the District officers was pitched at Gainesville, and not very far away was a residence, the most attractive feature of which was the presence of a bevy of unusually pretty girls. Not more than a day or two after arrival at camp the two officers in question, who considered themselves irresistible in their new olive drab uniforms, were properly introduced to the lovely lasses. They got along swimmingly for several evenings, and were supremely happy, until, during a lull in the conversation, one of the girls, in all seriousness, remarked:

"When you return to Washington please do not mention our names, because we know you are going to be court-martialed."

At the expiration of two minutes the dapper young men in uniform took their departure, their opinion of themselves having sustained a crushing blow.

"The selling of tickets in public offices is a nuisance that should be abated," was the remark made by a State Department official to a ticket seller. "All the summer it was tickets for excursions, and now the evening entertainments have commenced. I don't mind buying a few tickets during the course of a year, but I do object to feeling that I am compelled to give up money for them to persons with whom I have no dealings. These clerks, and messengers and other government employees are continually dogging the footsteps of people in the departments get paid for their government service, and should attend to that instead of spending so much time selling tickets."

"To me," he added, "it seems very much on the order of 'graft' or blackmail, for the man who gives the tickets feels certain that when he has any business with these ticket fenders he will get extra favors if there are any to be given. While I may be able to pay for the tickets, I can't count it in the profit and loss of business, and not as charity, as it should be counted. I have been so greatly annoyed by these people that I almost dread going into some offices because I am certain that I am going to be the victim of an official 'hold-up.' Really, they have become a great nuisance, and cabinet officers and bureau chiefs should inquire into the matter and put a stop to the practice."

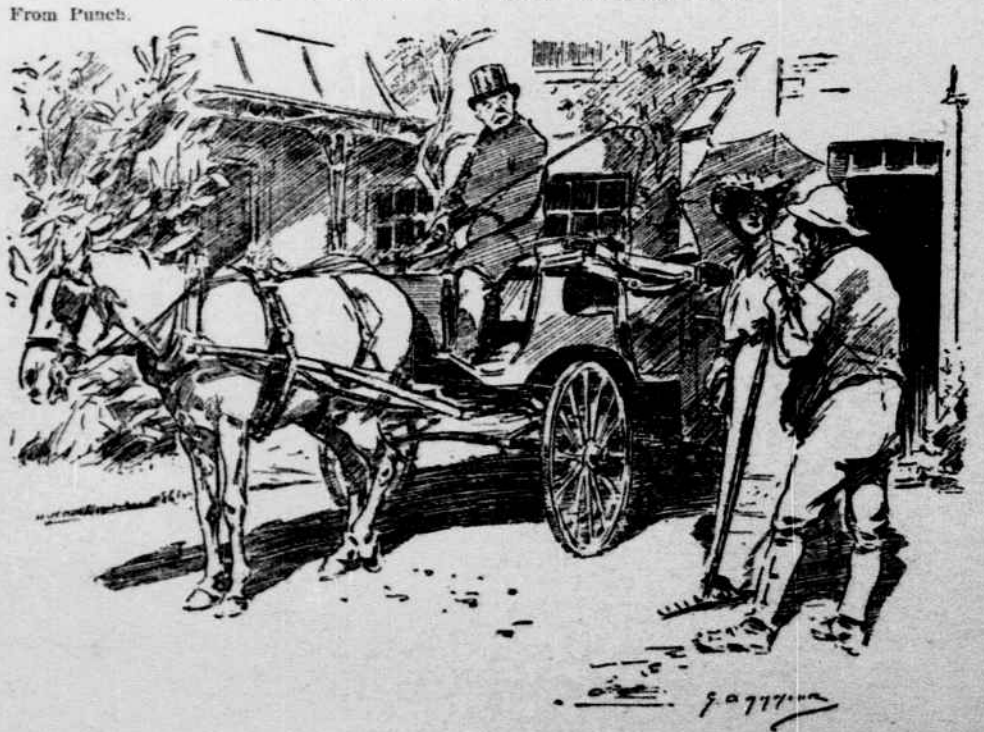
Early Marriages and Success.

From the Metropolitan Magazine.

We are used to look grave when a young man takes a wife unto himself with what seems to us to be undue precipitation, and if presently we see a young family growing punctually up around him maybe we wag our heads a bit and say it was a pity that young Buxton did not wait until he had got a round or two further up the ladder. We say we don't like to see a likely young fellow overburdened at the start, and we know of men of promise who incur domestic blessings so early in life and in such numbers that all their lives they never did better than to stagger on under their load. We say they never had a chance to get better than to stagger on under their load. We say they never had a chance to get better than to stagger on under their load.

But if Buxton has got his start and seems to be right so far, what if that demure young Lucy seems to have some hard sense and due constancy, in whatever disguise, under her ribbons and muslin, let's not creak audibly nor forecast a lot of boy troubles that are not actually in sight. Keeping body and soul together is not enough he would pour some of the rice over her head. The incident was a lively one, Secretary Shaw is an agreeable traveler.

THE HUMORS OF HOUSE HUNTING.



Lady—"Very healthy place, is it? Have you any idea what the death rate is here?" Caretaker—"Well, mum, I can't exactly say; but it's about one apiece all around."

GERMANY SUGGESTED

Possible Interference in the Far East Again Discussed.

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BUT IT IS NOT LIKELY THE EMPIRE WILL ACT.

Once Before Burned Her Fingers by a Friendly Interest—France and England Barred by Alliances.

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The question of mediation between Russia and Japan has been broached again by the London Times. Two eminent French statesmen, MM. Delanessau and Jean Dupuy, members of the defunct Waldeck-Rousseau cabinet, are said to have suggested this time that friendly mediation should not be offered by England or France, the allies of the respective belligerents, who, in their turn, recently concluded a friendly compact and economic alliance, but by the United States or Germany, "by Germany better than the United States."

According to the respective treaties between Russia and France on the one hand and between England and Japan on the other, the understanding was that if one of the contracting powers were the ally was to enter upon the contest, the other must understand that in the case between two single powers the ally was to preserve a friendly neutrality.

France concluded her alliance with Russia, her hope was undoubtedly that Russia would assist her in reconquering her lost provinces—Alsace and Lorraine. Russia, in the realism of her policy which is peculiar to her, understood the alliance in such a way that she was prepared to make it making an attack upon France, an attack that was never intended, and prevent France as well from some step against Germany that might endanger her. Meanwhile, she used the wealth and immense resources of France for the development of her own industries, military and naval, and to improve her economic system. French gold loaned and invested in Russia amounts to the enormous sum of more than the double of her war contribution.

Purpose of England's Alliance.

Great Britain, fearing the Russian power in constant fear for her Indian empire, sought the alliance of Japan, in order to entangle Russia in the direction of the far east. Japan, however, used Great Britain's alliance only to cover her rear against a second aggressor, this time France, in the struggle which she foresaw as inevitable, when Russia had once entrenched in Manchuria and Korea to stay. Both France and England began to realize after the outbreak of the war, in sight of the overwhelming naval and military superiority of Japan, that they were nothing to gain for either of them, and that the wisest thing for them to do would be to live in political peace with the victor.

France is much comforted by the war as possible. France is greatly interested that Russia should not be crippled and bankrupted by the war, and that she should be able to pay back her immense debt to France. Great Britain sees for a century to come her Indian possessions secure so far as Russia is concerned, and she has no dismay that through the overwhelming power of Japan her days in the far east are numbered. She has learned the lesson of the acquisition of the Yangtze valley, which she has carved out for herself, is irretrievably lost, and "Wei-hai-wei" is only a name.

Yet how few mothers do say "No" under such circumstances. And they excuse themselves by saying it is bad for children to be thwarted! So it is, but if the said mother would only know that their decision and was not to be ejected out of that decision, the mother would save a great deal of trouble and heartache to others thrown in contact with her offspring.

How to Stay Young.

From the Milwaukee Journal.

How old are you? The adage says that women are as old as they look and men as old as they feel. That's wrong. A man and woman are as old as they take themselves to be.

Growing old is largely a habit of the mind. "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." If he begins shortly after middle age to imagine himself growing old he will be old.

To keep one's self from decrepitude is somewhat a matter of will power. The life with both hands. He who lets his hands go. Death is slow only to tackle the tenacious.

Ponce de Leon searched in the wrong place for the fountain of youth. It is in one's self. One must keep one's self young inside. So that while "the outer man perishes" the inner man is renewed day by day.

When the human mind ceases to exert itself, when there is no longer an active interest in the affairs of the world, when the human stops reading and thinking and doing, the man, like a blasted tree, begins to die at the top.

You are as old as you think you are. Keep the harness on. Your job is not done.

Respect for Old Age in Japan.

From Leslie's Weekly.

In Japan there is no such thing as disrespect from youth to age. No Japanese boy or girl would ever think in a light or disrespectful manner of his or her superiors or teachers, and this may account for the earnestness so unusual among young children. When a student enters a master's presence in Japan he bows to the floor, and when the lesson is finished he bows again, with expressions of the deepest gratitude as he takes his departure.

The teacher, sitting on the floor, most respectfully returns the salute, and the light of his eyes is lit up at the inevitable bit of a smile that comes to his next class.

There is no hurrying of matters from room to room, as in some of the schools in our enlightened land. Great imitations as they are, the Japanese are remarkable for knowing which would not coincide with their national characteristics.

The Secret Police Rule France.

From Success.

Skilled in all languages, able to enter any society, the agents of the brigades des recherches (the secret police) have their fingers on the pulse of public life and know the men of high place as well as if they had gone through with lighted candles. In a large measure it is through them that the French Republic is ruled from the top down. The prefects, the mayors, the agents of this oligarchy, as he was in the time of Louis XVI. The secret police is the most powerful of the French government, and liberal ministers are succeeded by radical ministers, and socialists follow the radicals, but always the secret police remains, and always the oligarchy holds the reins.

France is a republic, but the people who are in charge of state may be ranked among the enemies—at least the adversaries—of this occult ruling power.

The Result.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Johnny—"Papa, what does it mean when you say a man is good at repartee?" "It means he hasn't any friends."

CHIMMIE FADDEN.

Observations on the Education of Youth and Its Peculiar Requirements.

WRITTEN FOR THE EVENING STAR BY EDWARD W. TOWNSEND.

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Author's Note.

It has been suggested that this series of "Chimmie Fadden" stories may have readers who are unaware of some changed relations in the group of characters whose lives are related. It is likely, also, that since the hero's introduction, some years ago, younger readers have appeared who are unacquainted with "Chimmie" and his friends, and perhaps younger readers will be interested in the story, because, since the earlier stories, two young people have been added to the group—"Chimmie's" son and "Miss Fadden's" daughter, called "Chimmie" and "Whiskers." There he meets "Miss Fadden's" French maid, "Madame," who is called "Chimmie," and with "Whiskers" and "Madame" the story goes on. The author gladly takes advantage of the first opportunity to explain why Mr. Burton was made to disappear from the scene. There was a popular demand for the peace arbitration board, as demanded by the Interparliamentary Union, except, perhaps, in a Pickwickian sense.

A DIPLOMAT.

From the London News.

The presence of a Japanese delegate at the socialist congress is natural enough. Japan has imported so many of our institutions and ideas that socialism was bound to creep in among them. Katamaya's party, like its European models, is now engaged in agitating against the war. It is not surprising, neither Japanese nor as socialists could Katamaya and his friends have any sympathy with the Slav despotism. But Japanese socialists oppose the war, not because it means heavy taxation on the poor and the strengthening of the military element, which is always most hostile to the poor, but because it means the loss of the Japanese life-and-death struggle there is room for debate as to the merits of a war policy. But after the war is over, the Japanese will have to improve the condition of the worker. He is in a position to do so in this respect to our trades unions, which at the forthcoming socialist congress will be the subject of discussion in decisive terms on free trade, Chinese labor and other burning questions of the day. But Katamaya probably hopes, like English socialists, to capture the trades unions for the independent socialist party. It remains to be seen whether this policy, which has been done first in England, will succeed in Japan.

The Value of Saying "No."

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

"No," is characterized as "a monosyllable the earliest learned by a child, but the most difficult to practice by the man."

Dr. Johnson displays a world of wisdom in these few simple lines, and the saying is as true in regard to women than it is to men.

It seems cold and heartless to a man to refuse to lend a friend a little money to tide over some anxious time, and yet it is a man's duty to do so if he himself is forced to make some of his own creditors wait while his money is fulfilling a friend's need.

But Katamaya is a good fellow, also much call for the little monosyllable "No." She may dislike to disappoint her children in their desire to have a new toy, but she has hearts that the granted favor would be bad for their health or future happiness.

Yet how few mothers do say "No" under such circumstances. And they excuse themselves by saying it is bad for children to be thwarted! So it is, but if the said mother would only know that their decision and was not to be ejected out of that decision, the mother would save a great deal of trouble and heartache to others thrown in contact with her offspring.

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which one of the things I would buy. He asks what was troubling me, and I show him the list. Mr. Paul laughs when he reads of things I had to get for Kiddie's education, and he gives de list to de man behind de counter and tells him to send de goods to Kiddie's school and de bill to him—to Mr. Paul! Say, is he a terrorwhead? What! But night, I tells Duchess what a slick trick I had done, but she says nothing, only comes comfortable—de way a woman does who has ducked a touch on her roll. Little Miss Fannie is educated to home, and she has some kinks in de game I never heard of down in Poverty Hollow where I went to school, when I couldn't sneak from de truancy cop who had de beat in dat part of de East Side. Little Fannie has a noisier, a noisier governess and just a plain goveness. Dat's tree of 'em, and dey has troubles of deir own—mostly of deir own. De noisier attends to little Fannie's clothes, de noisier governess to her manners and de goveness to her mind, when dey isn't quarreling about where her close ends and her manners to begin. Mr. Paul attends to her morals, and dey is de best attended to, for I giv' her a hand at de job. Miss Fannie says de kid's morals are good, but dat her friends and 'rhythms are ragged. De only ting Miss Fannie attends to for de little one is



"DE HIGHER EDUCATION COMES HIGH, SAY I."

advice, when he is up against a hard proposition. Women has a way of seeing tings before dey comes in sight, and when a man has de odds in his favor by getting his wife's views on a t'ing he can't see and she can, he has a right to take de advantage. When he wins out by her advice he can go home and brag about what a large forchard he has to see de t'ing so quick and fair.

Most women like peace, and a peaceful woman won't call her husband down wit any fool reminder of what she was who put him wise—and den he believes on de level dat he hoped de proposition all by his lone. Dey is few women what don't know dat dere husbands comes are shy on turnture, but most women are satisfied wit de comfort dey has out of knowing it without wanting to make a holier de neighbors.

So I goes to Duchess and tells what a shipload of junk Kiddie needed for his education, and before I had half finished Duchess was shivering and her face was toled to de roof. Dat's de way she gets when she hears a scheme dat means a touch on her bank roll. When she gets enough bread to talk wit she shows me troubles of her own, so dat I wouldn't be too fresh wit mine. She has a list of education tings, too, beginning wit a trunk full of clothes and ending wit six dozen hankies.

"What for?" I says. "Do you tink our son is to spread his bed wit hankies and make balloons out of 'em?"

"It is not one too many," says Duchess. "De proper end and aim of education is to get de children to always have a clean hanky in deir pockets. Should we have our son educated and den dey de poor outh all de hankies his education needs? But mon and, if I was to pay for 'em all meself I should tink again."

"Who else will pay?" I asks, wanting to get next to what he had roped an angel.

"Miss Fannie, of course, she says, 'I'll buy when I'm shopping with her. I will center on de eleven, for I am growing fast. So I'll need a nose guard at center."

Spanish Praise of French iwt.

From the Madrid Liberal.

In reply to the question, "What is wit?" a chronicler of recent times answered, "It is the genius of the French." At first sight the definition seems to be correct; but a little reflection brings one to the conclusion that it is defective. In genius there is ingenuity—that is to say, a certain amount of preparation and effort—but wit sparkles without labor, without preparation, without art.

In truth, wit is a malicious smile. It is a thing which rushes out suddenly from a shock, from a contrast, from a fortuitous meeting, from an image. It is a spark, a gleam of wit, a rapid reflection, very light, very frivolous, and very vain. Wit is next to nothing, but how important it is, and what a high place it occupies! It is more than a pleasure, it is a dread, it is a criticism. To criticism a man gives answers—he can put in a defense, but he can't stand before wit. Its stings can be compared only to those of wasps. It comes in a sunbeam, in a breeze charged with the perfume of flowers. Proceeds in its piercing and its evolution, and darts away, leaving no time for defense.

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